

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-23 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 16, 18, 19 and 21 are amended and claims 22 and 23 are added.

The Office Action objects to claims 17, 18, 20 and 21 as based upon rejected base claims but indicates that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the elements of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 17 and 20 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the elements of the base claims and all intervening claims and reintroduced as new claims 22 and 23. Thus, according to the Office Action, claims 22 and 23 are allowable.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that original claims 1-15, 17, 18, 20 and 21 define patentable subject matter. For the following reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 16-21 also define patentable subject matter.

Page 2 of the Office Action rejects claims 16 and 19 under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by US Patent 5,192,179 to Kovacs (hereinafter, "Kovacs"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that Kovacs discloses every element of the invention as recited in claims 16 and 19. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Claims 16 and 19 originally recited a "loader linkage comprising...a floating bell crank that is pivotally coupled to the loader frame independent of the boom..." The specification defines the floating bell crank by stating that the bell crank "is independent of and floats relative to the boom." It also describes floating by stating that the bell crank is pivotally connected to the loader frame via the leveling link and, as such, floats relative to the boom. (See paragraph 0013 of the specification.) Thus, the floating bell crank is independent of the boom but is able to angularly float with the boom and/or the bucket. Kovacs does not disclose this feature, i.e., a floating bell crank. Figs. 1A-1C of Kovacs merely illustrate a knuckle 36 that is directly attached to the loader frame via pivotal connection to flanges 37 and 38.

However, for clarification purposes, claims 16 and 19 are amended to recite a "loader linkage comprising...a floating bell crank and a leveling link, the floating bell crank pivotally coupled to the loader frame via the leveling link independent of the

boom..." Clearly, Kovacs does not disclose the indicated feature and, thus, cannot disclose every feature of the invention as recited in independent claims 16 and 19. Further, Kovacs cannot disclose every feature of claims 17, 18, 20 and 21 as these claims depend from claims 16 and 19 and recite additional features. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 16 and 19 under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Kovacs be withdrawn. It is also requested that the objection to claims 17, 18, 20 and 21 as dependent upon a rejected base claim be withdrawn.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that the application defines patentable subject matter and is condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-23 is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, he is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Any fees or charges due as a result of filing of the present paper may be charged against Deposit Account 04-0525. Two duplicates of this page are enclosed.

Respectfully,

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